



July 18, 2018

Jamie Hyslop, Project Manager
Regulatory Division
Alaska District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
44669, Suite B, Sterling Highway
Soldotna, AK 99669
e-mail: Jamie.R.Hyslop@usace.army.mil

**RE: Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan - Donlin Gold Project
DA Permit Application POA-1995-120**

Mr. Hyslop:

Donlin Gold, LLC (Donlin Gold) is pleased to submit a final Block 23 of our DA Permit Application (Avoidance, Minimization and Compensation). Please use this to replace all previous versions of Block 23 section from the DA permit application. We will submit a digital copy (PDF) via electronic transfer (please keep an eye out for an e-mail with download instructions) and a hard copy via US Mail. The revisions from the June 8, 2018 version are in response to comments received and include:

- ✓ Numerous additions and clarifications to the Compensatory Mitigation Plan (CMP) text discussion.
- ✓ The addition of a small amount of mitigation credits secured from an approved mitigation bank instrument for select project impacts within the bank's service area of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (from natural gas line construction).
- ✓ Adding additional details related to design, performance metrics and financial assurance to the Proponent Responsible Mitigation (PRM) plan for Upper Crooked Creek (largely based on USACE and EPA input and requests).
- ✓ Updating the Chuitna Preservation Area discussion with the results from the June 2018 field mapping and verification.

Donlin appreciates the time you, your staff, and other agency staff have provided in working through this long and rigorous process. I believe this CMP is likely the largest plan of its kind in terms of mitigation acres provided (over 6,000 acres) for a single project in Alaska and possibly the entire US. I think we should all be proud of the end product and Donlin Gold along with our partners at The Kuskokwim Corporation and Calista Corporation look forward to working with USACE through to the end of the permit decision process and, pending a positive permit decision, through to construction. You will note, and as we have discussed, that with the size of

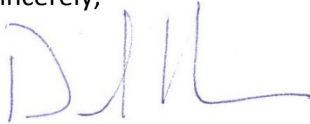
Donlin Gold, 4720 Business Park Blvd., Suite G-25, Anchorage, AK 99503
Tel (907) 273-0200 Fax (907) 273-0201 www.DonlinGold.com

July 16, 2018

the overall project, the complexities involved and the volume of documents included in the Final CMP, we would expect and support USACE including special conditions in any positive permit decision to capture and account for additional items owed to USACE prior to Donlin Gold being allowed to initiate construction. Let us know if you would like us to supply you with a list of items that we may be aware of and have committed to within this Final CMP.

We thank you for your time and efforts in reviewing our project materials to date and going forward, Jamie. Please contact me at (907) 569-0344 if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Daniel Graham, PE
Permitting and Environmental Manager

Enclosure:

Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan – July 2018 (via download)
Response to Comments Table – USACE June 2018 comments

CC:

Matt Lacroix, EPA
Rachel Klein, The Kuskokwim Corporation
Rosie Barr, Calista Corporation